Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of (i) a polynucleotide ~~that encodes~~ consisting of a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, (ii) a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~and~~ (iii) a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, (iv) a nucleic acid having at least about 80% nucleotide sequence identity to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or~~ and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and (v) a nucleic acid that hybridizes to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 ~~any of the foregoing,~~ in 40% formamide, 1M NaCl and 1% SDS upon incubation at 37°C followed by washing in 1X SSC at 45°C, wherein the nucleic acids of (iv) and (v) encode a protein overexpressed in liver tumor cells relative to regenerating normal liver cells.

3. (original) A genetic construct comprising a polynucleotide of Claim 2 downstream from a heterologous promoter.

4. (original) A host cell transfected with the genetic construct of Claim 3.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A method for identifying modulators of expression of ~~a polypeptide of Claim 1 or the polynucleotide of Claim 2~~ a polynucleotide consisting of a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, the method including the step of observing a change in the level of expression of the ~~polypeptide or~~ polynucleotide in a host cell after exposure of the host cell to a modulating agent.

7. (currently amended) A method for diagnosing a hepatocellular cancer in tumor cells from a liver of a human or non-human animal, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an expression level in the liver tumor cells of ~~a polypeptide that is differentially expressed in cancerous liver tumor cells and regenerating liver cells, or of~~ a polynucleotide ~~encoding~~ consisting of a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4 ~~the polypeptide~~;

determining the expression level in regenerating liver tissue of ~~the polypeptide or of~~ the polynucleotide ~~encoding the polypeptide~~;

diagnosing a hepatocellular cancer when the expression level in the liver tumor cells is higher than the expression level in the regenerating liver tissue.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein at least one of the expression level determining steps comprises the step of hybridizing to cellular mRNA, under moderately stringent conditions in 40% formamide, 1M NaCl and 1% SDS upon incubation at 37°C followed by washing in 1X SSC at 45°C, a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of (i) a polynucleotide ~~that encodes~~ the complement of which consists of a coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, (ii) the complement of a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, (iii) the complement of a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, (iv) a nucleic acid having at least about 80% nucleotide sequence identity to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or~~ and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and (v) an oligonucleotide that hybridizes under said moderately stringent hybridization conditions to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 ~~any of the foregoing~~, the nucleic acid molecule being of sufficient length to form a hybrid with the cellular mRNA.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A kit comprising:

~~at least one~~ an oligonucleotide or a polynucleotide that hybridizes under defined conditions to a nucleotide coding sequence for a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, ~~a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, a coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3, a nucleic acid having at least about 80% nucleotide sequence identity to the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, and a nucleic acid that hybridizes to any of the foregoing, in~~ the defined conditions being 40% formamide, 1M NaCl and 1% SDS upon incubation at 37°C followed by washing in 1X SSC at 45°C; and

at least one of a positive control and a negative control for evaluating a level of expression of the nucleotide coding sequence ~~at least one of the polypeptide and the nucleic acid that encodes the polypeptide~~ in a sample.

12. (currently amended) A kit as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the positive control is selected from the group consisting of liver tumor cells, and an extract of liver tumor cells~~, the positive control having a quantitatively predetermined level of expression of the polypeptide or the polynucleotide~~.

13. (currently amended) A kit as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the negative control is selected from the group consisting of non-tumor liver cells and an extract of non-tumor liver cells~~, the negative control having a quantitatively predetermined level of expression of the polypeptide or the polynucleotide~~.

14-15. (canceled)

16. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid of (iv) has at least about 85% nucleotide sequence identity to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

17. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid of (iv) has at least about 90% nucleotide sequence identity to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

18. (new) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid of (iv) has at least about 95% nucleotide sequence identity to at least one of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.